March/April 1991 Volume 16, Number 2

A summary of recent news stories from the University of California, San Francisco

UCSF

News for You

Passive Smoking . . . A Big Problem

Allen J. Balderson

Are you a nonsmoker? You probably think that your chances of dying of heart disease from smoking are pretty slim. Well, unfortunately, if you live with a smoker, you better think again.

According to two UCSF heart experts, nonsmoking spouses of smokers are 30 percent more likely to die of heart disease than other nonsmokers. Because there is such a strong link between exposure to another person's tobacco smoke—known as passive smoking—and developing heart disease, deaths previously blamed on lung cancer and other forms of cancer are now attributed to passive smoking.

"Passive smoking is a much bigger problem than anyone thought. This is the first clear statement that passive smoking causes heart diseases," says author Stanton Glantz, an associate staff member of the UCSF Cardiovascular Research Institute. Glantz and co-author William W. Parmley, chief of cardiology, based the report on their review of 10 recent epidemiological studies involving nonsmoking spouses of smokers.

The toll on the U.S. alone? Passive smoking results in an estimated 37,000 deaths annually from heart disease, another 3,700 deaths to lung cancer and 12,000 deaths to other forms of cancer. This total of some 53,000 annual deaths makes passive smoking the third leading cause of preventable death after active smoking and alcohol use, Glantz says.

"One can no longer put other people at risk by smoking in their presence," says Parmley. "In closed spaces—the workplace or at home—passive smoking increases the risk to nonsmokers."

Preventing Heart Attacks After Surgery

Many patients soon after surgery develop what is clinically known as "post-operative ischemia." It is a condition where not enough blood nor oxygen gets to the heart. UCSF researchers working at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center have found that these kinds of post-surgery patients are nine times more likely to suffer a heart attack than those who don't have the condition.

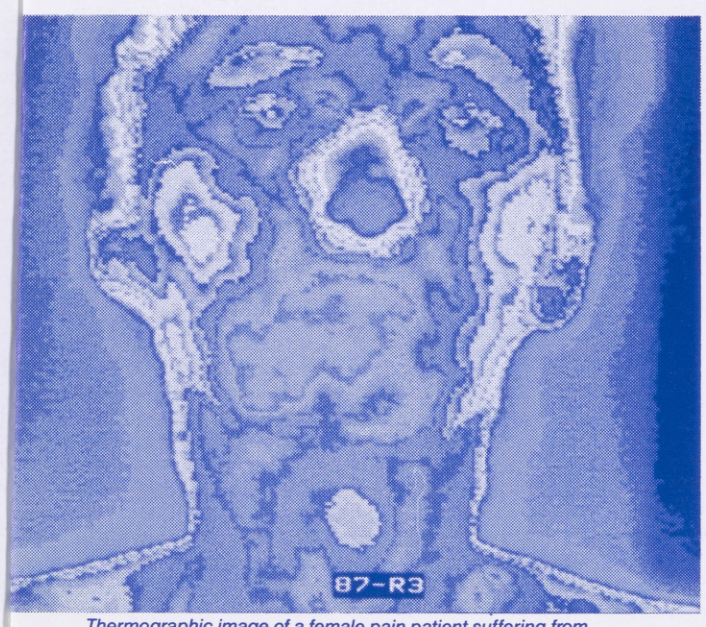
The finding is an important step in the search for ways to predict which patients will have heart attacks after surgery—a step that may help sharply reduce the toll from post-surgical heart attacks and save billions of dollars in medical care. At least a million Americans with coronary artery disease undergo non-cardiac surgery each year, and some 50,000 have heart attacks during or after the operation, with 20,000 resulting deaths.

Using special monitors to follow heart changes throughout surgery, however, the VAMC team found that ischemia soon after surgery—not events before or during the operation—often indicates a heart attack will occur in the following days.

"This means we must focus attention and resources on that critical post-operative period," said anesthesiologist Dennis Mangano, the study leader who also directs the intensive care unit at the VAMC. "Early detection and treatment of ischemia may well be the key to decreasing heart attacks and deaths after surgery," he said.

New Clinic Offers Treatment for Painful Skin Condition

When the UCSF Pain Clinical Research Center opened its doors recently, it also opened volunteer recruitment for a study of postherpetic neuralgia, a painful skin condition that sometimes follows an outbreak of shingles.



Michael Rowbotham

Thermographic image of a female pain patient suffering from postherpetic neuralgia

Most common in older people, postherpetic neuralgia occurs in half of all those over 60 who suffer an attack of shingles, a painful, blistering skin outbreak caused by the same virus responsible for chicken pox. After the shingles inflammation goes away, the area of the outbreak can become so sensitive that wearing clothes becomes painful. The pain can linger for months, even years, leaving many patients depressed.

Until recently, a physician could do very little to treat the condition, and even today many doctors are not aware of the most effective treatments.

The new UCSF Pain Clinical Research Center offers volunteers three types of anti-depressants, which are used to attack the pain directly, not deal with the depression, and an experimental gel that quells the most excruciating pain on the surface of the skin. The gel, which was created by UCSF Pharmacy alumnus Harry Hind, contains lidocaine, a common local anesthetic, and was recently approved by the FDA for clinical testing.

The study is led by neurologists Michael C. Rowbotham, who is the associate director of the Pain Management Center, and Howard L. Fields.

Study patients should be in general good health, and not have any permanent nerve blocks or surgery for postherpetic neuralgia. For further information call clinical coordinator Pam Davies at 476-0418.

In Brief

Gulf Crisis

The Veterans Administration Medical Center in San Francisco is a primary site for accepting war casualties—medical, surgical and psychological. UCSF faculty at the VAMC now are preparing to handle all of these aspects, including trauma associated with war. A program now is being set up to handle the psychological stress suffered by our service men and women as well as their families. Another program soon will begin on the Parnassus campus to handle the general public. For further information call Charles Marmar at 221-4810, x3779.

Melanoma Threat Serious, But Often Overstated

Years of scare headlines have convinced many people that youthful suntanning will automatically lead to malignant melanoma, a serious and sometimes fatal skin cancer. The bad news, according to Richard Sagebiel, director of the Mount Zion/UCSF Melanoma Detection and Treatment Center, is that light-skinned people with a history of bad sunburns and prolonged sun exposure—especially before the age of 18—do seem to be at increased risk for malignant melanoma.

The good news is that melanoma is not the automatic penalty for profligate tanning and that even if it does develop, it remains one of the most curable cancers if caught early. For every delay in diagnosis, however, the odds begin to change. For further information, call 885-7546.

Reversing Hardening of the Arteries

In the first study to look at the effects of cholesterol-lowering drugs on hardening of the arteries in women, investigators at the UCSF Cardiovascular Research Institute have found that both women and men can reverse blockages in the coronary arteries by reducing cholesterol levels in the blood, thus helping to reverse or delay atherosclerosis and ward off heart disease.

The team, which included John Kane, Mary Malloy and Richard Havel, found that drugs were the most effective in reducing cholesterol levels. But since all patients in the study had a genetic disease called "familial hypercholesterolemia," which causes high levels of blood cholesterol, there is hope that changes in diet alone may be sufficient to lower levels in the general population.

Former Patients Suffer from Public Hospital Closure

One year after a county hospital closed, more than 25 percent of its former patients were without regular medical care and many were in poorer health, according to a study led by Andrew D. Bindman of the UCSF Institute for Health Policy Studies.

The study explodes the assumption that when a public hospital closes, its patients—many of whom are low-income—will fall safely into the care of the remaining facilities in the area. "Despite the continued presence of two other hospitals, one nonprofit and one for-profit, patients from Shasta General Hospital in Northern California had difficulty finding new health care providers, waited longer for routine medical care, and felt that the availability of hospital services had decreased," said Bindman.

More News for You
on the back page

What's happening

March/April 1991
A bimonthly calend
events at UC San F

Special Events

Sun., Mar. 10
UCSF Orchestra Winter Concert: Music in Our Midst. To perform music by UCSF composers. Tickets $5/3. Millberry Union Gym, 500 Parnassus. 4 p.m. Call 476-2542.

Tues., Apr. 2
First Annual Child Welfare Lecture: Children & War. Childhood trauma expert & author Lenore Terr. Toland Hall, 533 Parnassus. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Call 476-8299.

Mon.-Tues., Apr. 8-9
Student Art Show. On display in the Millberry Union Conference Center, 500 Parnassus. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tues., Apr. 9
UCSF Community Chorus. The largest community chorus in the state performs Brahms' "Requiem." Tickets $8-$24. Davies Symphony Hall. 8 p.m. Call 566-8096 for information.

Fri., Apr. 12
Spring Concert: The Vocal Chords. Tickets $5/3. Millberry Union Conference Center, 500 Parnassus. 8 p.m.

Wed., Apr. 24
Chancellor's Distinguished Lecture for the Public Understanding of Science: Science & the Irresponsible Press. Jerry Bishop, author & science writer, *Wall Street Journal.* Cole Hall. 3 p.m. Call Janet Norton at 476-6399.

Bay Area Women in the Marketplace

A lecture series devoted to successful women entrepreneurs in the Bay Area. Co-sponsored by Campus Tours/Speakers Bureau and Women's Resource Center. All lectures held at noon in Rm. 303, Health Sciences West, enter through 513 Parnassus. Call 476-4394 or 476-0400 for information.

Tues., Mar. 5
Gwen Kaplan, president, Ace Mailing & Data Processing.

Tues., Mar. 19
Margaret Torme, president, Torme & Co.

Mon., Apr. 1
Leslie Tang Schilling, president, LTDD Real Estate.

Mon., Apr. 15
Sonia Melara, president & founder, Hispanic Yellow Pages & Direct Language, Inc.

Mon., Apr. 29
Florence Fang, owner/manager, Grand Palace restaurant.

Volunteer Orientation

Program to acquaint new & prospective volunteers with opportunities available in the Medical Center at UCSF. Held in Rm. 192, Long Hospital (L) or Rm. 169, Moffitt Hospital (M), 505 Parnassus, on the Tuesdays listed below. For further information call 476-1196.

Mar. 5, 9-11 a.m. (L)
Mar. 19, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (M)
Apr. 2, 9-11 a.m. (L)
Apr. 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (M)
Apr. 30, 9-11 a.m. (L)

Founders Day Events

Wed., Mar. 20
Founders Day Lecture. Samuel O. Thier, president, Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences. Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. 2 p.m.

Wed., Mar. 20
UCSF Library Dedication. Main Entrance, 530 Parnassus. Approximately 3:15 p.m.

Wed., Mar. 20
Founders Day Banquet. UCSF Medal awarded to Samuel O. Thier; Clark Kerr, emeritus UC president; Eugene E. Trefethen, Jr., Bay Area businessman. St. Francis Hotel. Reception 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:30 p.m. For further information call 476-4723.

Fri., Apr. 12
Faculty Research Lecture: Cheerfulness Creeps In. Henry R. Bourne, chair, pharmacology. Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. 2 p.m.

Tues., Apr. 16
Graduate Students Poster Session/ Research Contest. Posters on display 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Reception follows. Millberry Union Conference Center, 500 Parnassus. Call 476-2233.

Women's History Month

UCSF celebrates Women's History Month with the following events. Call 476-0400 for recorded program information.

Wed., Mar. 6
Trusting Ourselves. Psychiatrist Karen Johnson. A Brown Bag Lecture. Rm. 300, Health Sciences West. Enter through 513 Parnassus. Noon-1 p.m.

Fri., Mar. 8
Women's Resource Center Open House. Come enjoy refreshments & see their new location. 100 Medical Center Way. 2-5 p.m.

Tues., Mar. 12
Holding Up Our Half. Asian/American storyteller Clara Yen shares tales of spunky & wise women. Toland Hall, 533 Parnassus. Noon-1 p.m.

Wed., Mar. 13
Deaf Women Pioneers in the Entertainment Industry. Actress/producer Julianna Fjeld discusses her experiences & those of other deaf performers. Toland Hall, 533 Parnassus. Noon-1 p.m.

Tues., Mar. 19
Women of the Fourteenth Moon. Writer, broadcaster & Native American storyteller June LeGrand explores the four stages of life. Rm. 125, UCSF-Mission Center, 1855 Folsom St. Noon-1 p.m.

Wed., Mar. 20
The Dance Brigade. UCSF Arts & Performances presents this provocative dance collective. Millberry Union Gym, 500 Parnassus. Noon-1 p.m.

Thurs., Mar. 21
Women Working, Women Writing: A Poetry Reading. Features Tory Miller, author of *Really Boomba,* and other UCSF women staff, faculty & students. Langley Porter Auditorium, 401 Parnassus. Noon-2 p.m.

Wed., Mar. 27
From My Mouth to God's Ear: Jewesses from Biblical Times to the 1990s. Claire Silver, storyteller & Jewish communal worker, shares tales from literature and personal experience. UCSF-Laurel Heights Auditorium, 3333 California St. Noon-1 p.m.

Thurs., Mar. 28
Have I Got a Story to Tell. Actress/storyteller Diane Ferlatte weaves tales from African, Southern & African-American cultures. Herbst Hall, Mount Zion, 1600 Divisadero. Noon-1 p.m.

Campus Tours

All tours are free and take place at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26 and Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30. Meet in the lobby of Medical Sciences building, 513 Parnassus. For further information call 476-4394.

Cole Hall Cinema

Films are shown on Thursdays and Fridays in Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. Children under 14 $2; UCSF students & Millberry Union members $2.50; seniors $3; general $3.50. Call 476-2542. (Movies subject to change.)

Mar. 7 at 5:45 & 8:30 p.m.
Mar. 8 at 6:30 & 9:15 p.m.
Henry & June.

Apr. 4 at 5:30 & 8:45 p.m.
Apr. 5 at 6 & 9:15 p.m.
Dances with Wolves.

Apr. 11 at 5:45 & 8 p.m.
Apr. 12 at 6:30 & 8:45 p.m.
Misery.

Apr. 18 at 5:45 & 7:45 p.m.
Apr. 19 at 6:30 & 8:30 p.m.
Three Men & a Little Lady.

Apr. 25 at 5:45 & 8:30 p.m.
Apr. 26 at 6:30 & 9:15 p.m.
Havana.

Community Health Talks

A series of free lecture/discussions sponsored by Public Service Outreach Programs held at UCSF Laurel Heights (LH), 3333 California St., or the Parnassus campus (P), Rm. 302 Health Sciences West (enter through 513 Parnassus). 7-8:30 p.m. Free parking available. Call 476-8429 for details.

Thurs., Mar. 14
Diabetes in the '90s. (P)

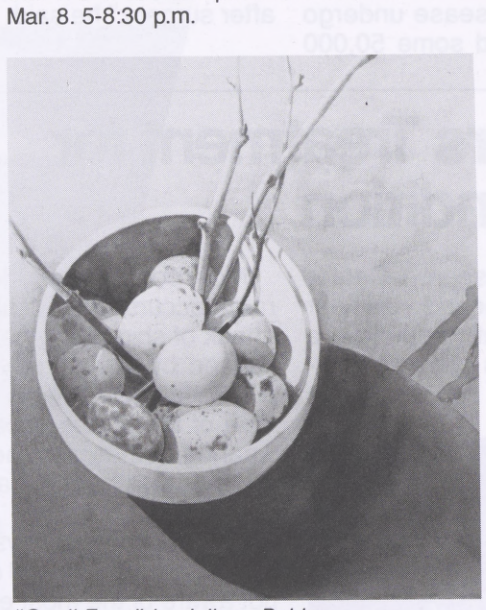
Wed., Mar. 27
Music as a Technique for Relaxation & Stress Reduction. (LH)

Thurs., Apr. 11
Our Environment & Its Impact on Our Health. (P)

Thurs., Apr. 25
Pain Management. (LH)

Art Exhibits

Paintings & Drawings by Juliane Poirier. Mar. 4-May. 31. On display at the Faculty/ Alumni House, 745 Parnassus. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 476-4723. Reception for artist, Fri., Mar. 8. 5-8:30 p.m.



"Quail Eggs" by Juliane Poirier.

Recreation & Fitness

Spring into fitness! Millberry Union Fitness Center offers a great variety of recreation & fitness classes including ballet, aerobics, Tae Kwon Do & much more. Children's programs, too. Community registration for Spring '91 begins **Tues., Apr. 2,** at Millberry Union Fitness Center, 500 Parnassus. For further information and a free brochure call 476-1115.

Senior Health Education Program

Free lectures by UCSF staff geared to senior citizens. Schedules are subject to change. Call 476-8429 for complete schedule and to confirm events.

Tues., Mar. 5
Pain. Menorah Park, 3365 Sacramento St. 2 p.m.

Mon., Mar. 11
Understanding the Human Brain. San Francisco Senior Center, 481 O'Farrell St. 1 p.m.

Tues., Mar. 19
Exercise. Sunset Senior Center, Christ First Lutheran Church, 1090 Quintara. 12:15 p.m.

Thurs., Mar. 21
Emergency Medical Response/CPR. Aquatic Park Senior Center, 890 Beach St. 1 p.m. (Sign interpreter present for hearing impaired.)

Tues., Mar. 26
Communication with Your Doctor. Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Christ First Lutheran Church, 1090 Quintara. 1 p.m.

Brown Bag Lectures

A series of free lectures held weekly on on Wednesdays at the Parnassus campus (P), Rm. 300, Health Sciences West, enter through 513 Parnassus; and monthly on Thursdays at UCSF-Mission Center Building (MCB), 1855 Folsom St, Rm. 125 and on Tuesdays at Mount Zion Medical Center of UCSF (MZ), 1600 Divisidero, Herbst Hall. All lectures held at noon. For further information call 476-4394.

Mar. 6
(See Women's History Month events.)(P)

Mar. 13
Pay Less Tax. (P)

Mar. 14
What's Happening to Mother Earth? (MZ)

Mar. 19
Dare to Do It: Mastering Risk. (MCB)

Mar. 20
Why Should Anybody Want to See a Shrink? (P)

Mar. 27
Progress in Diseases of the Brain. (P)

Apr. 3
Change Your Mind, Change Your Life. (P)

Apr. 10
Low Back Pain: When Physical Therapy Is Not Enough. (P)

Apr. 11
Choice & Transformation. (MCB)

Apr. 16
High Cholesterol: What to Do About It? (MZ)

Apr. 17
Generic Drugs. (P)

Apr. 24
The Hispanic Challenge. (P)

Blood Donation

Tues., Apr. 23
Campus Blood Drive. Blood may be given in Millberry Union main lounge, 500 Parnassus, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., and School of Nursing Bldg. mezzanine level, enter through 521 Parnassus, 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

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Breast Cancer Screening

Women can have low-cost mammograms—x-rays to screen for breast cancer—from a mobile van that travels to convenient Bay Area locations. The procedure takes approximately 20 minutes and costs $50. Your physician's approval is required. For appointments call 476-2193 between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. A $50 mammography screening also is available at the Mount Zion Hospital of UCSF Radiology Department. Call 885-7710.

Mar. 4-8
Marina Green. In parking lot near Goodwill shed & Ft. Mason.

Mar. 11-15
Westlake Shopping Center. Daly City, on Park Plaza Dr. near Safeway.

Mar. 18 & 22
Diamond Heights. On Diamond Heights Blvd. near Safeway.

Mar. 19-20
SF State University. 19th Ave. at Holloway Ave.

Mar. 21
Palo Alto Jewish Community Center. Call Marilyn Sacks at 493-9400 for appointment.

Mar. 25-28
Sunset District. On Irving St. between 25th & 26th Aves. (Mar. 29 is a UCSF holiday.)

Apr. 1-5
Richmond District. On 7th Ave. between Geary & Clement.

Apr. 8-11
Taraval St. Between 17th & 18th Aves.

Apr. 12
UCSF Parnassus Campus. On Parnassus Ave. at Medical Center Way.

Apr. 15-19
Embarcadero. On Drumm St. between Sacramento & Clay Sts.

Apr. 22-26
UCSF-Laurel Heights. 3333 California St. in parking lot on left.

Apr. 29-30
Diamond Heights. On Diamond Heights Blvd. near Safeway.

Institute of Healing Arts & Sciences

All talks are free and held on Fridays at noon in Rm. 721, Nursing Bldg., enter through 521 Parnassus. Call Marie Lehrer at 476-3939 for information.

Mar. 1
Dancing Out AIDS: Movement As Exorcism.

Mar. 8
Increasing Self-Esteem: Being a Friend to Yourself.

Mar. 15
Health as a Natural Side Effect of a Creative Purpose.

Mar. 22
Living Near Earthquake Faults: How Do We Prepare for Future Quakes?

Apr. 5
Explode Your Limits!

Apr. 12
Your Body Knows: Optimum Health Through Allergy Healing.

Apr. 19
Unleash Your Power to Love.

Apr. 26
Journey of the Heart.

UCSF
University of California, San Francisco
News and Public Information Services
513 Parnassus Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94143-0462

Her heart raced. Her breathing became shallow. When it got really bad, she blacked out.

Pathways.

Every human heart has them. Thin strands of tissue, each one no wider than a hair. They are the heart's electrical wiring; they carry the tiny impulses that maintain rhythmic heartbeat.

Dawn DeAngelis was born with an extra one. A condition known as Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome. It literally made her heart go haywire. Connected between her left atrium and ventricle, the extra pathway short-circuited her heart's electrical system.

Wolff-Parkinson-White put the brakes on Dawn's life. She loved to play sports in school. But strenuous activity periodically triggered attacks. Her heart raced. Her breathing became shallow. When it got really bad, she blacked out.

Dawn took drugs to control the attacks, known as tachycardia. She taught herself to relax whenever she felt an attack coming on. And she restricted her physical activity. "I held back when everyone else went full throttle," she recalls.

But Dawn wanted to be active. And she didn't want to take drugs for the rest of her life. Or face open-heart surgery—a radical cure.

So, as an adult in San Francisco, Dawn set out to find the best specialists and best treatment possible. She was well-suited to the task. She worked in television news, most recently as an executive producer at KGO-TV. A key part of her job was to find experts to explain news stories.

Dawn's search quickly led to Melvin Scheinman, chief of cardiac electrophysiology at UC San Francisco and the pioneer of successful non-surgical treatments for tachycardia. One of the latest, known as radiofrequency ablation, involves heating the metal tip of a catheter with intensely focused radio waves, and then cauterizing the extra pathway with the heated tip.

Dawn underwent a three-hour operation in December. She was given a mild sedative only—no anesthetic. Scheinman and his colleagues, Todd Cohen and Michael Lesh, inserted one catheter beginning at the neck, and three at the groin. One catheter inserted at the groin contained the metal cauterizing tip. The other three contained electrical sensors attached to monitors.

Monitoring Dawn's electrical impulses played an important role in the operation. Readings from the monitors allowed Scheinman and his team to "map" the heart's impulses. And so pinpoint the extra pathway.

The doctors manipulated the metal-tipped catheter with the help of a fluoroscope, which produces real-time, X-ray images on a monitor. They could watch the catheter as they maneuvered it through Dawn's blood vessels to her heart. Once they had properly positioned the metal tip, they bombarded it with common radio waves transmitted from outside Dawn's body, correcting the abnormal electrical pathway in the process.

Since her operation, Dawn has had no more tachycardia attacks. It seems she's cured. She's looking forward to experiencing things she could only once dream of. She's no longer holding back.

"I'm planning to try cross-country skiing," she says. " And I'm going to start exercising at the Y. Who knows, a year from now I might even be running every day."

—Marshall Krantz

David Powers

To Our Neighbors

March/April 1991

New Treatment of Painful Skin Condition

Preventing Heart Attacks After Surgery

Passive Smoking is a Bigger Problem than Thought

UCSF

University of California, San Francisco
513 Parnassus Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94143-0462

More News for You

Court Gives Final Approval for UCSF Laurel Heights

Superior Court Judge Ira A. Brown, Jr. has given UCSF the green light to move into the UCSF Laurel Heights campus facilities. In a decision handed down on January 10, Brown rejected the challenge of the Laurel Heights Improvement Association to a new Environmental Impact Report certified by the UC Regents.

The decision in favor of UCSF concludes nearly five years of litigation, which at one point went all the way to the California Supreme Court. In this most recent decision Judge Brown denied the demand of the Laurel Heights Improvement Association that the Regents of the University of California withdraw and reconsider their certification of the EIR on grounds that it was inadequate.

This is the third court decision in a row in favor of UCSF and will allow the University to proceed with plans to move the UCSF School of Pharmacy and other academic and research programs to the Laurel Heights campus and create critically needed laboratory space.

"We are delighted with the court's decision," said UCSF Chancellor Julius R. Krevans. "We now are going to move ahead on many exciting medical and scientific research and education programs of the School of Pharmacy and some School of Medicine programs in cancer, heart disease, diabetes and AIDS.

"We hope to establish a new spirit of cooperation between UCSF and its neighbors," the Chancellor said.

A previous EIR on the Laurel Heights project, which was challenged by the neighborhood association in August 1986, was found inadequate on two grounds by the California Supreme Court in December 1988. The court ordered a more thorough discussion of alternatives to the plan and a discussion of proposed future uses of the entire building rather than only the first half to be occupied. The section of the EIR which dealt with health and safety issues was upheld by the Court.

In response to the court's ruling, the University prepared an entirely new EIR, assisted by Environmental Sciences Associates. Over 17 months, UCSF expended some 21,000 hours and $1 million to prepare a state-of-the-art Environmental Impact Report which responds to neighborhood concerns about the project.

The new EIR, approved on January 10 by Judge Brown, was certified by the UC Board of Regents in May 1990.

A second suit brought by the LHIA and dismissed by Judge Brown sought to enforce against the University certain deed restrictions placed on the property in 1952 and 1953 when it was sold to Fireman's Fund.

The third suit brought by the LHIA charged the University with breach of promise in announcing plans for the Laurel Heights campus and was dismissed on November 26 by retired Court of Appeal Justice Harry Brauer, sitting as Superior Court Judge pro tem.

Parnassus Campus Emissions Pose No Danger

An independent, city-sponsored review of the 1988 environmental assessment conducted by Radian Corporation for UCSF supports the conclusion that emissions from laboratories and hospitals at the UCSF Parnassus site have had little or no impact on surrounding neighborhoods.

The results of the review were released January 17 by Bill Lee, toxics control and safety services manager for the San Francisco Department of Public Health to neighborhood representatives at meetings of the UCSF Parnassus Campus Planning Committee, the UCSF Environmental Assessment Task Force and the UCSF Laurel Heights Campus Planning Committee.

The Health Department had arranged for the independent review of Radian's environmental assessment of UCSF at the request of neighborhood residents concerned about potential health risks. Marc Lappe, professor of health policy and ethics at the University of Illinois, Chicago, who wrote the review, concluded that the "net contribution of the research and teaching facilities of the Parnassus campus of UCSF to potentially carcinogenic or harmful chemicals in the air surrounding its facility is small, if not trivial, compared with other sources in the community."

The University initiated the independent environmental assessment in 1988 in an attempt to answer some of the concerns expressed by UCSF's neighbors and to assure the campus that research, teaching and patient care at the Parnassus Avenue campus are conducted in a safe manner.

UCSF

University of California, San Francisco